

48A C.J.S. Judges § 186

Corpus Juris Secundum | August 2023 Update

Judges

Joseph Bassano, J.D.; Khara Singer-Mack, J.D.; Thomas Muskus, J.D.; Karl Oakes, J.D. and Jeffrey J. Shampo, J.D.

VI. Authority, Powers, and Duties

H. Particular Judges

2. Other Particular Judges

§ 186. Associate and coordinate judges

[Topic Summary](#) | [References](#) | [Correlation Table](#)

West's Key Number Digest

West's Key Number Digest, [Judges](#) 23

Except as otherwise provided by law, associate judges possess jurisdiction over all justiciable matters that can properly be brought in the court on which they serve together, and coordinate judges are clothed with coequal judicial power although the presiding or chief judge may be vested with overall administrative authority.

Except as otherwise provided by law, associate judges or judges who sit on a court which acts collectively and as a collegial body are possessed of unlimited jurisdiction over all justiciable matters that can properly be brought in that court.¹ Accordingly, any member of the court may act on behalf of the court when delegated by the court to do so.²

Coordinate judges.

Generally, where several judges of a single court do not act collectively and may not be regarded as a group, but each occupies an independent office, similar but separate, and in no sense jointly with or dependent on the others, the authority, functions, powers, and duties of such judges are in every sense equal.³ Thus, all circuit judges in a multijudge circuit are clothed with coequal judicial power⁴ although the chief judge may be vested with overall administrative authority.⁵ Similarly, judges of different divisions within a circuit have commutable authority.⁶

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Footnotes

- 1 Okla.—[Neugebauer v. State](#), 1973 OK CR 309, 512 P.2d 220 (Okla. Crim. App. 1973).
- 2 **Multiple judges**
More than one judge may exercise authority over a single case.
- 3 Tex.—[Hull v. South Coast Catamarans](#), L.P., 365 S.W.3d 35 (Tex. App. Houston 1st Dist. 2011).
- 4 Pa.—[Com. v. Wetton](#), 538 Pa. 319, 648 A.2d 524 (1994).
- 5 La.—[Courtney Corp. v. Demarest](#), 379 So. 2d 812 (La. Ct. App. 4th Cir. 1980), writ denied, 382 So. 2d 166 (La. 1980).
- 6 N.C.—[State v. Kelly](#), 5 N.C. App. 209, 167 S.E.2d 881 (1969).
- 7 Fla.—[Chanin v. Feigenheimer](#), 111 So. 3d 292 (Fla. 4th DCA 2013).
- 8 W. Va.—[Carter v. Taylor](#), 180 W. Va. 570, 378 S.E.2d 291 (1989).
- 9 See § 145.
- 10 Ark.—[Nation v. State](#), 283 Ark. 250, 674 S.W.2d 939 (1984).

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